

EMERGENCY SYNDROMES IN PEDIATRIC PRACTICE, THE—Alfred J. Vignec, M.D., Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, New York University, College of Medicine, New York, N. Y.; Medical Director and Pediatrician in Chief, New York Foundling Hospital, New York, N. Y.; and Director of Pediatric Division, St. Vincent's Hospital, New York, N. Y. Landsberger Medical Books, Inc., 51 East 42nd Street, New York, N. Y., 1959. 382 pages, \$9.00.

This book is intended for the practicing physician who in his day to day practice encounters problems in infants and children that require immediate attention. The author recognizes the dilemma that is presented when one has to treat while at the same time trying to establish the diagnosis. He directs his attention to both phases of such a situation.

There are chapters on the newborn, respiratory tract, cardiovascular system, the gastrointestinal tract, hematopoietic system, central nervous system, metabolic disorders, the use of steroids, poisoning, the premature and allergy. The covering of the acute emergency situation in each of these sub-divisions is thorough, readable and to the point, albeit at times controversial. The illustrations employed are entirely those of roentgenograms and are unfortunately of poor quality. The volume is recommended for those who see a large number of acutely ill infants and children.

WILLIAM C. DEAMER, M.D.

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MEDICAL LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS (Rypin's)—Topical Summaries and Questions—9th Edition—Walter L. Bierring, M.D., M.A.C.P., M.R.C.P., Edin. (Hon.), Director, Division Gerontology, Heart and Chronic Diseases, Iowa State Department of Health; Secretary-editor Federation of State Medical Boards of United States; Professor of Medicine Emeritus, State University of Iowa, College of Medicine; and former Iowa State Commissioner of Health. With the Collaboration of a Review Panel. J. B. Lippincott Company, East Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pa., 1960. 805 pages, \$11.00.

The ninth edition of Rypin's Medical Licensure Examinations has been "thoroughly revised and updated" since its last edition in 1957. The text is in two principal sections, Part I, the basic medical sciences and Part II, the clinical sciences. It is evident on reviewing the book that "every effort has been made to treat as concisely as possible those portions of the medical curriculum generally selected for use by the various examining boards."

The introductory chapter describes the methods used now in the examinations and gives some examples of the objective multiple choice written tests as well as examples of questions incorporating a patient problem.

Because of the vast amount of information that has been crammed into a total of 787 pages, there is naturally limitation in what can be presented on each topic, but even though many are discussed in outline form only, much is brought to the attention of the reader for further study if necessary.

There are a few areas in the book where some additional information or a reference to an authoritative work or textbook would seem desirable in order to help the student's grasp of the subject. For example, in the discussion on the respiratory system, it undoubtedly would be of value to have the normal pulmonary function tests tabulated along with results of tests of a few pathological conditions such as emphysema or fibrosis of the lungs. Or, in the part on cardiac surgery, a reference to some special articles giving the most recent experiences with this pioneering work would help the student. The few lines on electrocardiography are too brief to be of much help.

The chapter on psychiatry is very good and has a short, excellent list of references. This is the only chapter in the text that provides such supplementary information.

These criticisms are meant to be constructive suggestions and are in no way critical of the excellent manner in which the majority of topics are discussed. Examples of information concisely provided are the paragraphs on blood types, on leukemias, and on antibiotics.

In conclusion it can be said that this volume provides excellent up-to-date information on all divisions of medical science and clinical medicines; that it might in some way strengthen a few topics that are of special interest today; but the information that has been condensed in this text will serve the student well who is preparing for examinations for licensure and is an excellent review for any physician.

HENRY GIBBONS, III, M.D.

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INJURIES OF THE BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD AND THEIR COVERINGS — 4th Edition — edited by Samuel Brock, New York University. Springer Publishing Company, Inc., 44 East 23rd St., New York 10, N.Y., 1960. 739 pages, \$18.50.

This volume on injuries of the brain and spinal cord and their coverings edited by Samuel Brock is the 4th edition since the original edition that appeared 20 years ago.

Chapters have been contributed to by 31 different authors, all of whom have national and international prominence.

In my opinion this book would be of great value to every medical library and particularly to the neurosurgeon, the neurologist, the general practitioner, the internist, and the orthopedist.

Of particular interest is the chapter on simulation (ma-linger-ing) by Dr. Keschner. And also the chapter on the electro-encephalogram in case of a head injury by Dr. Hoefer.

Every phase of injury regarding this subject has been adequately covered. In my opinion, I would regard this as the leading volume on trauma of the nervous system.

ROBERT F. PALMER, M.D.

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PHYSICIAN'S HANDBOOK—11th Edition—Marcus A. Krupp, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford; Director, Palo Alto Medical Research Foundation, Palo Alto; Norman J. Sweet, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco; Ernest Jawetz, Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Microbiology and Lecturer in Medicine and Pediatrics, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco; and Charles D. Armstrong, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford. Lange Medical Publications, Los Altos, Calif., 1960. 547 pages, \$3.50.

The Physician's Handbook is essentially a compilation of those diagnostic and therapeutic facts and procedures which the authors feel to be of greatest daily interest and value to the student and practitioner of medicine. For this, its eleventh edition, it has been thoroughly revised and re-organized. There are two new chapters on emergency medical examination and chemical analysis of blood and body fluids.

By title and by what it contains this is literally a handbook—handy to have, to carry, to use. It tells the student or practitioner what to do and how to do it. Its 547 pages and the covers too are jam-packed with handy, useful information. As an inexpensive paper-back, kept remarkably well up to date, for the house officer's pocket or the physician's bag this reviewer does not know of a superior volume.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.